

Backward Regions Grant Fund

3107. SHRI SUNDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have recently launched a "backward Regions Grant Fund";
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of districts, identified/selected for being covered under the programme, State-wise; and
- (d) the criteria and the parameters adopted for selection of backward districts under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) was launched by the Prime Minister at Barpeta in Assam on the 19th February, 2007. The programme is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. Funds are available under the Programme for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into identified districts. Panchayati Raj Institutions at all levels are the designated authorities for planning and implementation of the programme, through the participative preparation of district plans from the grassroots level upwards.

Special provisions have been made in the guidelines for the areas and districts in J&K, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, which do not have Panchayats. Traditional village level bodies and other constitutionally mandated institutions such as Autonomous Regional and District Council in these districts will plan and implement the programme in these areas.

Salient features of the programme are given at statement-I (See below). A total amount of Rs. 1925 crore was released under the programme during 2006-07.

(c) and (d) The Programme covers 250 districts in 27 States. The existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana which covers 147 districts has been subsumed into the Backward Regions Grant Fund programme. A State-wise list of districts covered under the programme is at Statement-II (See below). The list of 250 districts under BRGF includes the original 200 districts covered

by the National Rural Employment Programme (NREGP) and all 170 districts identified as backward by the Inter-Ministry Task Group on Redressing Regional Imbalances on the basis of 17 socio-economic variables. The list of districts is as on 2001 and any districts carved subsequently out of the 250 districts are covered under the programme, subject to the proviso that the allocation for the original district will be shared between the new districts that have been carved out of such district.

Statement-I

Salient features of the BRGF Programme

- BRGF consists of two funding windows, namely, a Capacity Building Fund and a substantially untied grant.
- The substantially untied grant is to be distributed among the districts as follows: (a) every district will receive a fixed minimum amount of Rs. 10 crore per annum, and (b) the balance allocation under the scheme will be made on the basis of the share of the population and area of the districts in the total population and area of all the backward districts.
- All the 147 RSVY districts will be released funds till the plans approved under RSVY (plus the existing monitoring fee) have been completed to the extent approved.
- Non RSVY- BRGF districts will begin the process of District Plan preparation in 2006-07 in accordance with these guidelines.
- Each Panchayat or Municipality within the backward district concerned will be the unit for planning under BRGF. Plans prepared by each Panchayat or Municipality will be consolidated into the District Plan by the District Planning Committee, constituted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
- During the consolidation of the District Plan, particular care shall be taken to ensure that the District Plan addresses issues relating to SC/ST development.
- The State Government will designate a department, preferably the Department of Panchayati Raj, as the nodal department at the State level, responsible for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

- A High Powered Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary and consisting of Members from various departments of State Government and the Central Ministries will consider and approve the proposed District Plans to be taken up under the districts component of the BRGF.

Fund Flow Mechanism and Tracking of funds

- All funds will be transferred to the Consolidated Funds of the State Governments. Those funds that are to be transferred to Panchayats and Municipalities by the State Governments will be transferred to their bank accounts within 15 days of the release of funds to the Consolidated Fund as in the case of transfer of Twelfth Finance Commission Grants. The States have been requested to adopt the mechanism of bank transfer suggested by the Task Force of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj which was set up to study the feasibility of rapid transfer of funds through Bank to the Panchayats. The State Governments have also been requested to furnish Bank Account details of all Panchayats.

Financial Performance

2006-07 was the first year of the BRGF programme. The grant includes 147 districts which were covered under the RSVY. These districts are entitled to receive their full allocation of Rs. 45 crore before they shift to BRGF programme.

Statement-II

Backward Region Grant Fund- List of Districts

Andhra Pradesh

1	Adilabad	2	Anantpur	3	Chittoor	4	Cuddappah
5	Karimnagar	6	Khammam	7	Mahbubnagar	8	Medak
9	Nalgonda	10	Nizamabad	11	Rangareddy	12	Vizianagaram
13	Warangal						

Arunachal Pradesh

- 1 Upper Subansiri

RAJYA SABHA

[3 May, 2007]

Assam

1 Barpeta	2 Bongaigaon	3 Cachar	4 Dhemaji
5 Goalpara	6 Hailakandi	7 Karbi Anglong	8 Kokrajhar
9 Marigaon	10 North Lakhimpur (Laksha)	11 North Cachar Hills	

Bihar

1 Araria	2 Aurangabad	3 Banka	4 Begusarai
5 Bhagalpur	6 Bhojpur	7 Buxar	8 Darbhanga
9 Gaya	10 Gopalganj	11 Jamui	12 Jehanabad
13 Kaimur/Bhabua	14 Katihar	15 Kishanganj	16 Khagaria
17 Lakhisarai	18 Madhepura	19 Madhubani	20 Munger
21 Muzzaffarpur	22 Nalanda	23 Nawadah	24 Patna
25 Pashchim Champaran	26 Purba Champaran	27 Purnia	28 Rohtas
29 Saharsa	30 Samastipur	31 Saran	32 Sheikhpura
33 Sheohar	34 Sitamarhi	35 Supaul	36 Vaishali

Chhattisgarh

1 Bastar	2 Bilaspur	3 Dantewada	4 Dhamtari
5 Jashpur	6 Kanker	7 Kawardha	8 Korba
9 Koriya	10 Mahasamund	11 Raigarh	12 Rajnandgaon
13 Sarguja			

Gujarat

1 Banaskantha	2 Dangs	3 Dahod	4 Narmada
5 Panch Mahals	6 Sabarkantha		

Haryana

1 Mohindergarh	2 Sirsia
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Himachal Pradesh

1 Chamba	2 Simla
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[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Jammu & Kashmir

1	Doda	2	Kupwara
3	Poonch		

Jharkhand

1	Bokaro	2	Chatra	3	Deoghar	4	Dhanbad
5	Dumka	6	Garhwa	7	Giridih	8	Godda
9	Gumla	10	Hazaribagh	11	Jamtara	12	Kodarma
13	Latehar	14	Lohardagga	15	Pachhim	16	Pakaur

Singhbhum

17	Palamu	18	Ranchi	19	Sahibganj	20	Saraikela
21	Simdega						

Karnataka

1	Bidar	2	Chitradurga	3	Davangere	4	Gulbarga
5	Raichur						

Kerala

1	Palakkad	2	Wynad
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Madhya Pradesh

1	Balaghat	2	Barwani	3	Betul	4	Chhatarpur
5	Damoh	6	Dhar	7	Dindori	8	Guna
9	Jhabua	10	Katni	11	Khandwa	12	Mandla
13	Panna	14	Rajgarh	15	Rewa	16	Satna
17	Seoni	18	Shahdol	19	Sheopur	20	Shivpuri
21	Siddhi	22	Tikamgarh	23	Umaria	24	West Nimar

Maharashtra

1	Ahmednagar	2	Amravati	3	Aurangabad	4	Bhandara
5	Chandrapur	6	Dhule	7	Gadchiroli	8	Gondia
9	Hingoli	10	Nanded	11	Nandurbar	12	Yavatmal

RAJYA SABHA

[May, 2007]

Manipur

1 Unnandei 2 Churachandrapur 3 Tamenlong

Meghalaya

1 Ri Bhoi 2 South Garo Hills 3 West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1 Lawngtlai 2 Saiha

Nagaland

1 Mon 2 Tuensang 3 Workha

Orissa

1 Bolangir	2 Boudh	3 Debagarh	4 Dhenkanal
5 Gajapati	6 Ganjam	7 Jharsuguda	8 Kalahandi
9 Keonjhar	10 Koraput	11 Malkangiri	12 Mayurbhanj
13 Nabrangpur	14 Nuapada	15 Phulbani	16 Rayagada
17 Sambalpur	18 Sonapur	19 Sundargarh	

Punjab

1 Hoshiarpur

Rajasthan

1 Banswara	2 Barmer	3 Chittaurgarh	4 Dungarpur
5 Jaisalmer	6 Jalore	7 Jhalawar	8 Karoli
9 Sawai	10 Sirohi	11 Tonk	12 Udaipur

Madhopur

Sikkim

1 Sikkim North

Tamil Nadu

1 Cuddalore	2 Dindigul	3 Nagapattinam	4 Sivagangai
5 Tiruvannamalai	6 Villupuram		

Tripura

1 Dhalai

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Uttar Pradesh

1	Ambedkar Nagar	2	Azamgarh	3	Bahraich	4	Balrampur
5	Banda	6	Barabanki	7	Basti	8	Budaun
9	Chandauli	10	Chitrakoot	11	Etah	12	Farrukhabad
13	Fatehpur	14	Gonda	15	Gorakhpur	16	Hamirpur
17	Hardoi	18	Jalaun	19	Jaunpur	20	Kaushambi
21	Kushinagar	22	Lakhimpur	23	Lalitpur	24	Maharajganj
			Kheri				
25	Mahoba	26	Mirzapur	27	Pratapgarh	28	Raebareli
29	Sant Kabir Nagar	30	Shravasti	31	Siddharthanagar	32	Sitapur
33	Sonebhadra	34	Unnao				

Uttaranchal

1	Chamoli	2	Champawat	3	Tehri Garhwal
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West Bengal

1	Bankura	2	Birbhum	3	Dakshin Dinajpur	4	Jalpaiguri
5	Malda	6	Midnapur	7	Midnapur East	8	Murshidabad
9	Purulia	10	South 24 Parganas	11	West		
					Uttar Dinajpur		

**Training of weaker sections and women panchayat
representatives**

3108. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of SC, ST and women elected members in the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;